

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE  
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE AND  
PROTECTION ADVISORY  
BOARD**

**CHAIRMAN  
BRENT S. ROCKETT**

**VICE CHAIRMAN  
NICOLE CHILES**

**SUSAN E. APPT  
GAYLE S. GOLDSMITH  
REID W. HUTCHINS  
JOE MANNUZZA  
CHARLES E. WILSON**

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on July 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the BER Meeting Room, 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, NC and via online meeting, through the Microsoft Teams platform.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brent S. Rockett      Nicole Chiles      Gayle Goldsmith  
Reid Hutchins      Joe Mannuzza      Charles Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan Appt

**FCOEAP PRESENT:** Minor Barnette      Peter Lloyd      Steven Lyda  
Valerie Shores

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Rockett called the meeting to order. Mr. Rockett announced a roll call to verify the attendance, virtually and in-person, of the Advisory Board members.

## **II. Approval of the April 18, 2023 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Rockett opened the discussion for a motion to approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Chiles made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved. The motion passed.

## **III. Director's Update**

Mr. Barnette informed the Advisory Board about an ozone exceedance which occurred during April 2023, in Forsyth County. This was the first exceedance since 2018. It was due to an event referred to as a stratospheric intrusion.

Mr. Barnette gave a brief staff update. The Data Specialist position and the Senior Office Assistant position are the two vacant positions in the department. Countywide, we still have a significant workforce deficit. We have a lot of people working really hard to fulfill responsibilities under conditions that make it difficult to provide services to the citizens and the community.

Mr. Barnette discussed the impacts to our local air quality from the inundation of smoke from the wildfires in Canada. He shared the AirNow.gov website operated by the EPA. Air quality conditions per zip code were displayed, as well as the fire and smoke map.

Ms. Chiles asked about any instances of spills concerning water after the recent weeks of heavy rain. Mr. Barnette advised there were no instances that he was aware of. It is not the responsibility of our office, but we keep informed with what is going on in the community. We receive reports and correspondence for releases and remediation activities regarding petroleum and dry-cleaning solvent.

Regarding our clean energy and sustainability projects, the contract for the electrical engineering firm to do the study for the engineering and design work for the EV charging stations is now in our contract control system. Multilevel approvals are required. We will send out a request for qualifications and for proposals for the actual procurement and installation of the equipment after we execute the contract and the design work to be completed.

We have a request for qualifications in the possession of the purchasing department waiting for approval and advertisement for the photovoltaic solar project. This will be for the installation of a photovoltaic solar array on the rooftop of a maintenance building at Tanglewood Park. This project will be comprised of multiple phases. We are waiting for approval and advertising for a contractor. We anticipate putting more solar panel arrays than initially planned, due to the contract load for the electric power meter. The first step is to select a contractor.

We will use the NC General Statute that governs the design/build approach. An appropriate firm will design the system and the contractor will install it. It is important for us in the initial design phase to include the capacity for additional panels to be installed in subsequent phases.

Mr. Barnette will attend the Inflation Reduction Act Workshop for federal funding conducted through the Department of Treasury and IRS. It is important for us to take advantage of this opportunity to use federal funding to support our projects.

Mr. Rockett asked for an update on the Kernersville Recycling Center. Mr. Barnette said the County's recycling convenience center located in Kernersville has been closed since January 10th as a result of a vehicular accident. Damage was caused to the support of the structure. The insurance company and their adjustor have determined the contractor who will be hired to do the work. We have not been given the start date. The customer of the insurance company isn't having much success with communication. We don't know how long it will take to complete the repairs. We don't have an explanation for why this has taken such a long time. We are still receiving multiple calls a day from citizens regarding this matter.

Mr. Rockett inquired about the increase rental cost of the facility. The majority of the Board of County Commissioners wanted to keep the three convenience centers open and in operation for citizens to have an opportunity to recycle. Mr. Barnette discussed the cost of operations and the lease of the property. We project an annual cost of \$360,000. Our collection of materials is not anticipated to exceed 1,200 tons. We estimate \$300 per ton to manage those recyclables. We are still looking for opportunities to improve efficiency. We are planning to install cameras at all of the recycling convenience centers.

Ms. Goldsmith commented about the length of time it has taken to reopen the facility and who is the insurer. Mr. Barnette said the information indicates that the insurance company is responsible for this delay and Waste Management is the insured.

Mr. Rockett asked which convenience center collects the most materials. The Kernersville location is used by the most households in Forsyth County. It is the nearest recycling center for more than half of the total houses in the unincorporated area of Forsyth County. We intend to open as soon as possible.

#### **IV. Other Business**

Mr. Rockett confirmed there was no other business.

#### **V. Next Tentative Quarterly Meeting:**

The next tentative meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023.

**Location:** 201 North Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, N.C. and via online Microsoft Teams platform.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Mr. Rockett entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Chiles motioned to adjourn. Ms. Goldsmith seconded the motion. Mr. Rockett asked for a voice vote to signify all in favor to adjourn the meeting. All members agreed to the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Dated: 10/10/2023 wm Barnette Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: Nicole Chiles Brent S. Rockett, Chairman  
Nicole Chiles Co-Chair